

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3995

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZORES

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: MADEIRAN INDEPENDENCE

REF: LISBON 4931 DTG 271128Z AUG 75

1. AUGUST 26 DIARIO POPULAR CARRIES TEXT OF CABLE REPORTEDLY
SENT TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES BY MADEIRAN MILITARY COMMAND.

INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF MESSAGE FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: COMMAND AND UNIT COMMANDERS OF INDEPENDENT TERRITORIAL
COMMAND OF MADEIRA FEEL IT THEIR DUTY TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY
OF THEIR EXTREME CONCERN WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE MAINTENANCE
IN POWER OF MINORITY, UNPOPULAR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH ARE BEING

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TRANSLATED INTO AN INCREASE OF SEPARATIST SENTIMENT AMONG

LARGE SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION AT GREAT RISK TO NATIONAL UNITY. FURTHER INFORM YOU THAT, IN ABSENCE OF YOUR RAPID DECISION, COMMAND WILL BE OBLIGED TO FACE DRAMATIC OPTION BETWEEN LOYALTY TO FEELINGS OF NATIONAL UNITY AND SUBJECTION BEFORE PRESUMPTIOUS MINORITY IDEOLOGY OF SOME MEMBERS OF AFM AND GOVERNMENT. UNQUOTE

2. NO OTHER REFERENCE TO MESSAGE HAS SURFACED IN LISBON MEDIA. AMERICAN CONSULAR AGENT IN MADEIRA, HOWEVER, REPORTS THAT CABLE TEXT APPEARED THIS MORNING IN FUNCHAL PAPERS, WHERE IT BEING INTERPRETED AS THREAT BY COMMAND TO STAGE COUP IF GONCALVES REMAINS IN POWER.

3. AUGUST 26 JORNAL NOVO REPORTED CONVERSATION ON SUBJECT OF MADEIRAN INDEPENDENCE WITH MAJOR FARIA LEAL, CHIEF OF STAFF OF MADEIRA COMMAND. J.N. PHONED LEAL TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION OF STORY THAT FLAMA HAD PRESENTED COSTA GOMES WITH "ULTIMATUM." DENYING KNOWLEDGE OF ULTIMATUM, LEAL TERMED SITUATION IN ARCHIPELAGO "NORMAL," THOUGH SEPARATIST ACTIVITY ON RISE. HE STATED IT WAS DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE DEGREE OF SEPARATIST ACCEPTANCE IN MADEIRA BUT THAT PRESENT POLITICO/MILITARY SITUATION IN PORTUGAL IS CONTRIBUTING TO "SEDUCTION" OF MANY PEOPLE. PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS OF INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE, HE SAID, ON EVENTS IN CONTINENT. LEAL DID NOT MENTION MILITARY COMMAND CABLE TO COSTA GOMES.

4. COMMENT: AS MADEIRA COMMAND CABLE POINTS OUT, SEPARATIST MOMENTUM IN MADEIRA AND AZORES WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD SO LONG AS PRESENT GOVERNMENT REMAINS IN POWER. THE LONGER SHOWDOWN BETWEEN ANTUNES GROUP AND GONCALVES IS DELAYED ON CONTINENT, THE MORE LIKELY IT BECOMES THAT INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS IN ONE OR BOTH ARCHIPELAGOS WILL MAKE THEIR MOVE.
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